

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 02880 150338Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-02 /140 W
-----026769 160033Z /62

R 140837Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1504
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ANKARA 2880

USOECD, USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJ: IMPROVING ELECTRIC POWER SITUATION IN TURKEY

REF: ANKARA 6578

1. DURING A FOUNDATION-LAYING CEREMONY AT A THERMAL
POWER PLANT IN SOUTHWESTERN TURKEY ON APRIL 7,
TURKISH MINISTER OF ENERGY DENIZ BAYKAL IS REPORTED
TO HAVE COMMENTED THAT SCHEDULED POWER OUTAGES TO
ONON-INDUSTRIAL USERS WERE TO BE REDUCED IN EARLY APRIL
BY ELIMINATING SATURDAY OUTAGES, AND THAT AT THE SAME
TIME OUTAGES TO INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS WOULD BE REDUCED
BY HALF.

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2. AYHAN ERKAN, CHIEF, POWER PLANTS DIVISION OF THE
TURKISH ELECTRICITY COMMISSION, CONFIRMED TO US THAT
INDUSTRIAL OUTAGES INDEED HAD BEEN REDUCED FROM SEVEN
HOURS TO FOUR HOURS A DAY WITH NO CUTOFFS ON WEEKENDS.
HE SAID THAT THIS INCREASE IN SERVICE
WAS NOW POSSIBLE FOR SEVERAL REASONS. MAINTENANCE OF
EQUIPMENT WAS ON SCHEDULE. (IT WILL BE RECALLED FROM

REFTEL THAT LAST SUMMER'S SEVERE SHORTAGES WERE PRECIPITATED BY SIMULTANEOUS BREAKDOWNS AT KEY INSTALLATIONS.) THE THIRD UNIT OF THE SEYITOMER PLANT NEAR KUTAHYA IS NOW IN OPERATION, ADDING 150 MW TO THE SYSTEM. RECENT RAINFALL AND WINTER RUNOFF HAVE RAISED THE LEVEL OF RESERVOIRS AT HYDROELECTRIC SITES, THE OUTPUT OF WHICH HAS CONSEQUENTLY RETURNED VIRTUALLY TO NORMAL. AND AT THE END OF THIS MONTH THE FIRST UNIT OF THE TUNCBILEK PLANT WILL BE ON STREAM, BRING AN ADDITIONAL 150MW OF CAPACITY INTO THE NETWORK, TO BE FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER 150 MW AT END OF MAY.

3. AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE ELECTRIC POWER SITUATION HAS ACTUALLY BEEN APPARENT IN SOME PARTS OF TURKEY SINCE LAST DECEMBER. THE AREAS OF ANKARA IN WHICH MOST EMBASSY EMPLOYEES LIVE, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE CURRENTLY SUBJECT TO CUTS OF ONLY TWO HOURS A DAY, THREE DAYS A WEEK, AS COMPARED TO THREE HOURS A DAY, SIX TIMES A WEEK, LAST AUTUMN. ISTANBUL REPORTS THAT ALTHOUGH SCHEDULED BLACKOUTS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS CONTINUE SIX DAYS A WEEK, THEIR DURATION HAS BEEN REDUCED TO TWO HOURS AND TIMING CHANGED TO A SLIGHTLY LESS DISRUPTIVE HOUR.

4. COMMENT. ANOTHER REASON FOR IMPROVEMENT IN AVAILABILITY OF ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLIES MAY WELL BE UNCLASSIFIED

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REDUCED DEMAND FROM INDUSTRIAL USERS WHO HAVE BEEN FORCED TO REDUCE PRODUCTION FOR LACK OF IMPORTED INPUTS AND BECAUSE OF A GENERAL SLACKENING OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY ASSOCIATED WITH TURKEY'S CURRENT ECONOMIC MALAISE. ALTHOUGH IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEPARATE CAUSE FROM EFFECT, POWER CONSUMPTION IS REPORTED TO BE DOWN SOME SEVEN PERCENT IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1978 COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THIS COULD BE A FUNCTION OF EITHER (OR PROBABLY BOTH) REDUCED SUPPLIES OR SLACKENING DEMAND.
SPIERS

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